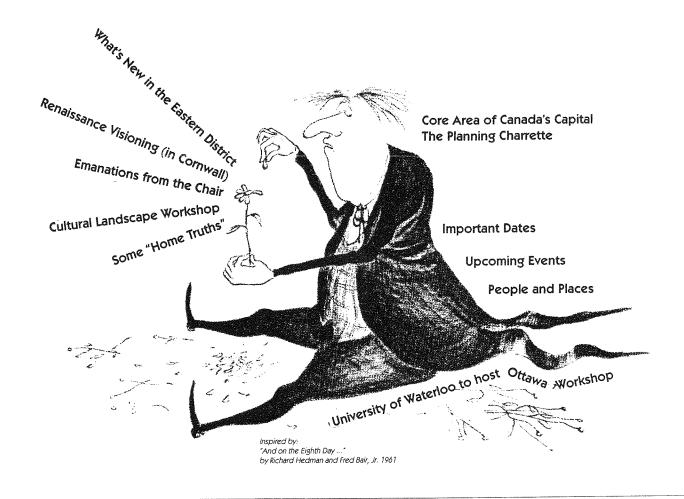
# Planners at Work



# Milations





Eastern District, Ontario Professional Planners Institute Région de l'Est de l'Institute des Planificateurs de l'Ontario

# **Emanations from the Chair**



by Dennis Jacobs

Another summer has passed and a great fall lies ahead. As I indicated in the spring, this will be the last 'emanation' from this Chair as I pass the torch on to Ron Clarke of Delcan. The District is very fortunate to have someone with Ron's enthusiasm and energy at the helm but he will need your support.

I can say without reservation, that the last four years have been very exciting and have renewed an interest in my profession and the Institute which represents us which will have a lasting effect. But enough swan song.

Your Program Chair, Leeann McGovern, has put together a great package for the AGM this year (details are in this edition) and I hope you will plan to attend. We are also trying something new this year to recognize new members to the Institute by representing their certificates at the AGM. So come out and say hello!

Organizing for the 2001 CIP/OPPI Annual Conference to be held in Ottawa is in full swing and we will be looking for volunteers to help in various areas as the date draws closer (July 8 to 11, 2001), so please say yes when we call, or better yet, call us. Pam Sweet and Bob Tennant are the Conference Co-chairs. Well, that's about it for now except to say thank you to my hard working executive, and to all of the others who have supported me during my term as Chair.

# University of Waterloo to host an Ottawa Workshop

The University of Waterloo School of Urban and Regional Planning, is holding its annual Ottawa Graduate and Senior Undergraduate Workshop October 21-23, 1999.

At a luncheon to be held on October 22, Louise Comeau, Senior Policy Analyst on Environmental Issues and the Manager for Community Energy Opportunities at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities will discuss Canada's Response to Global Climate Change. Louise Comeau and the FCM have been heavily involved in the Municipal Climate Change Table, which has been structured as part of the national effort to coordinate policy and action to reduce greenhouse gasses. The luncheon, to be held at 12:15 p.m. at the Courtyard Restaurant, 21 George Street in the Byward Market, will be co-sponsored by the Ottawa Chapter alumni and the OPPI Eastern District.

Eastern District OPPI may attend the luncheon (pay for your own lunch). For more information about the Waterloo alumni workshop, contact Chris Fleming at 723-7639.

# Vibrations

Vibrations is a quarterly publication of the Eastern Ontario District (EOD) of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) and is distributed free to all EOD members. Subscriptions are available at \$10 per year (4 issues) for non-members.

**Vibrations** is published quarterly. The following are the deadlines for submission of articles.

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# What's New in the Eastern District

# **Municipal Restructuring**

On August 23, 1999 Municipal Affairs Minister Steve Gilchrist announced the provincial government's intention to restructure municipal governments in Ottawa-Carleton. The long-awaited announcement indicated that area municipalities had been given a 90 day timeframe to come up with a solution to municipal reform. Following a 30 day period, the Minister announced the appointment of Glen Shortliffe as the region's special restructuring adviser. Shortliffe, who was clerk of the Privy Council from 1992-1994 and oversaw the restructuring of the federal bureaucracy, is to consult with the public on municipal reform, and within 60 days come up with a proposal for a new form of government. Proposals for municipal reform must meet five criteria: reduce taxes; cut bureaucracy; reduce the number of politicians; improve services; and maintain or improve accountability to taxpayers. Shortliffe's report is to be completed by the end of November, and will be followed shortly thereafter by a provincial cabinet decision. Legislation will be passed to ensure implementation for the November 2000 municipal election.

A number of options are being considered for reform in Ottawa-Carleton, including: a single city which would combine all 11 municipalities and the regional government into one, with community boroughs for local input; a single city combining 7 urban municipalities and the regional government, with the 4 rural townships remaining as separate entities; and three cities, one made up of Ottawa, Rockcliffe and Vanier, one comprised of Kanata and Nepean, and one created by combining Cumberland and Gloucester, with the rural townships remaining as separate entities.

In addition to announcing municipal restructuring for Ottawa-Carleton, the provincial government also gave three other Ontario regions 90 days to come up with municipal reform proposals: Sudbury, Hamilton-Wentworth, and Haldimand-Norfolk.

# **Archaeological Resources**

The Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton recently approved an Archaeological Resource Potential Mapping Study to be used as a tool in implementing policies for the protection of archaeological resources as required in the Provincial Policy Statement and the Regional Official Plan. The mapping study, which was prepared by Archaeological Services Inc. and Geomatics International Inc., provides the Region with a GIS mapping model that indicates site specific archaeological potential, and can be used to guide private development proposals and public projects to determine the need for archaelogical assessment and protection of such resources. Regional Council adopted an Official Plan amendment to provide planning guidelines and criteria that will be used to protect archaeological resources. The study was prepared in co-operation with an Advisory Committee which included representatives from the area municipalities, various federal and provincial agencies, the Ottawa-Carleton Home Builders Association, and the Algonquin Golden Lake First Nation. For more information, contact Sylvie Grenier at the RMOC, 560-2053; e-mail: grenisy@rmoc.on.ca

#### Octoberfest Dinner and Social

October 28, 1999

The Lindenhof Restaurant 965 Richmond Road, Ottawa Cocktails: 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. (cash bar) German Dinner (no cost to members)

#### Reservations required

Contact Leeann McGovern @ 730-5709

# Core Area of Canada's Capital The Planning Charrette

By Daniel Miron, Senior Planner, Planning Division, National Capital Commission, Ottawa

# First Step towards the development of the Core - The Vision

The National Capital Commission (NCC) is a Crown corporation with the mission of "creating pride and unity through Canada's Capital Region". Its mandate is to develop Canada's Capital into a national meeting place, to increase Canadians' knowledge of their country through its capital city, and to safeguard the national treasures located in the National Capital Region (NCR).

In June 1998, the NCC unveiled its *Vision for the Core Area of Canada's Capital - A Capital for Future Generations*, putting forward a series of proposals designed to serve as a guide to planning, developing and animating the Core Area. The proposals provided an overview of how the Core Area could evolve over the next 50 years, and promoted an understanding of the relationships between past, present and future development. The recently-approved Plan for Canada's Capital recognizes the Core Area as the most significant part of the NCR.

During the consultation period, which lasted from June to September 1998, comments and ideas were received from many Canadians, capital residents and visitors. A public consultation report was prepared with the aim of identifying from the consultations the major issues to be considered in future planning phases. These issues - for example, urban planning, transportation and the environment - will help further the thinking process that began with the Vision. In February 1999, following the submission of the consultation report, the NCC made public its decision to abandon a proposal to open up Metcalfe Street to provide a better view of Parliament Hill. However, this decision did not mean the NCC would disregard this area in its future planning. To ensure continued participation in the project, a series of workshops and a planning charrette with partners and interest groups were organized throughout the summer of 1999.

#### A Sector Plan for the Core Area

A Sector Plan is a NCC land use plan, that establishes land use priorities, rationalises property allocation and tenure among user-agencies, and defines comprehensive longterm development and conservation objectives. The Sector Plan takes into account the NCC mandate, and that of any other federal custodian department within the planning area, already approved planning documents, relevant social, economic and environmental matters, as well as regional and local Official Plans.<sup>2</sup>

The Core Area Sector Plan project consists of three major phases. Phase I, already completed, aimed at developing a Vision for the Core Area that was presented to the public consultation in order to initiate discussions and exchanges.

Phase II, now under way, is to devise a *Concept Plan for the Core Area* which extends over approximately 10 square kilometres on both sides of the Ottawa River and affects the cities of Ottawa and Hull, the Outaouais Urban Community (OUC) and the Region of Ottawa-Carleton (ROC). It includes the identification of planning, development and programming principles and objectives based on the Vision proposals and overall federal, regional, municipal and private orientations for the future development of the Core Area. This concept plan aims at building consensus amongst all partners and will be presented to the public during a second consultation period in November 1999.

During Phase III, NCC staff will develop a *Sector Plan for* the Core Area encompassing all federal lands within the Core Area boundaries.

## Core Area Planning Charrette

A Planning Charrette was considered the best means for achieving the NCC's goals in developing a series of concepts for the future development of the Core Area with the participation of federal, regional, municipal and professional partners.

The objective of the Charrette was to allow for multidisciplinary teams in planning, urban design, architecture, landscape architecture, etc. to develop planning concepts for the Core Area of the Capital based on the Vision

# Core Area of Canada's Capital (continued)

principles, the results of the public consultation<sup>3</sup> and other workshops.

Invitations were sent to federal, regional and municipal partners, and also to national professional associations (planning, architecture and landscape architecture). Barb McMullen, MCIP was invited to the charrette as the Canadian Institute of Planners representative. Meetings were held with the various government agencies and organizations in order to present the project and obtain appropriate representation. An information kit containing appropriate background information was sent to all participants prior to the charrette.

The charrette was held at Carleton University, School of Architecture on July 5 & 6, 1999. Participants were organized into five teams of about eight participants including team leaders and reporters. They were given the task of developing a series of principles and objectives based on the Vision exercise from which a conceptual plan was developed.

# Where do we go from here

The results of the planning charrette must be regarded as a "work in progress" for the preparation of the Core Area Sector Plan and not an end. They constitute a solid and valuable basis for further discussions on planning the Core Area. A report of the charrette was prepared in order to capture the essence of the discussions and to ensure that all concepts and ideas would be kept for future discussion<sup>4</sup>. NCC staff and Planning/Urban Design Consulting Firms - DuToit, Allsopp, Hilier and Delcan Corporation - are presently refining the results of the charrette and preparing concepts for the next round of public participation and consultation planned for the fall of 1999.

# For more information on this project, you can communicate with:

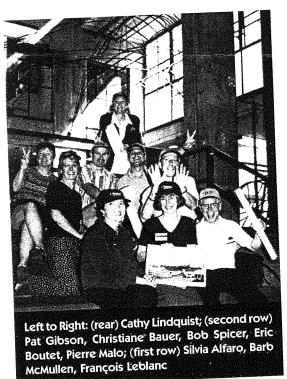
Daniel Miron, Senior Planner, Urban Lands

Planning Division

Telephone: (613) 239-5178 Internet: dmiron@ncc-ccn.ca

- 1. National Capital Commission. Annual Report 1997-1998. P. 11
- 2. NCC CAPP 1CP2
- National Capital Commission. Vision for the Core Area of Canada's Capital Region - Public Consultation Report. February 1999.
- National Capital Commission. Core Area Sector Plan, Phase 2 Conceptual Plan. Planning Charrette Report. July 5 & 6, 1999.

# Some Charette Participants





Left to Right: (rear) Pierre Dubé, Rejéan Plamondon, Yves Gosselin, Sinisha Brdar; (front) Yoland Charette, Daniel Lapape

# Cultural Landscape Workshop

by Barb McMullen

Participants in a City of Cumberland one-day seminar on cultural heritage landscape conservation and land use planning, held June 25, 1999, benefited from a full package of guest speaker presentations and a hands-on site workshop. The excellent session was planned and sponsored by Cumberland's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC), with refreshments provided by the Eastern District of OPPI.

Winston Wong, of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation (MCZCR), defined a cultural heritage landscape, as set out in the 1996 Ontario Planning Act as a defined geographical area of heritage significance which has been modified by human activities. Such an area is valued by a community, and is of significance to the understanding of the history of a people or place.

Wong discussed relevant provincial policy statements and a cultural landscape typology (designed, evolving, or associative), while identifying several Ontario cultural landscape examples. Wong later discussed "landscapes of NIMBY-ism", noting the potential for abuse of the cultural landscape concept, and the need for careful research and assessment to determine authenticity. The Ministry also provided copies of a Draft Educational Manual for Assessing Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes in Ontario (expected to be released in final form mid-fall).

David Cuming of Archaeological Services, Inc., described a two-stage assessment process for cultural heritage landscapes, including a reconnaissance survey, as well as an intensive survey. Cuming discussed the need for accurate field work to identify landscape units, describe built and natural features, and to map boundaries and features in the reconnaissance survey. The intensive survey then identifies the values of these units, as well as their qualities and importance through the use of appropriate criteria and evaluation measures.

Marilyn Miller, also with Ontario MCZCR, discussed her participation in a 1997 OMB hearing concerning a proposed subdivision and rezoning at Queenston, Ontario. The Ministry, at the request of the Queenston community, had undertaken cultural landscape research and an assessment of the lands in question, which involved the site of the Battle at Queenston Heights in the War of 1812. Although the Board's decision demonstrated appreciation for the heritage significance of the village and battlefield, the development was not allowed due to servicing deficiencies—not on the basis

of the site's cultural heritage significance. At the time of the hearing the subject lands were not provincially designated under Part V of the Heritage Act, although further work is now underway to pursue such status, along with amendments to the local Official Plan.

Sylvie Grenier of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton described the regional planning perspective and relevant

Ottawa-Carleton official plan policies, while Stuart Lazear, of the City of Ottawa discussed Ottawa's experience with heritage zoning over the last twenty-five years. Carolyn Walsh of the City of Cumberland, highlighted Cumberland's development guidelines and site plan approval requirements for the Historic Cumberland Village. Prior to the group's participation in a cultural landscape evaluation workshop on a nearby Cumberland site, Tim Fisher of the City of Cumberland summarised the site's historical context.

# Your Help Is Needed!

**Eastern District Publications Committee** 

With the loss of Cam McEwen from the Publications Committee, a vacancy exists. If you are interested in writing or soliciting articles and/or news for Vibrations and the Ontario Planning Journal, contact Barb McMullen at:

730-2663 or by e-mail: bmcmullen@netcom.ca

# Some "Home Truths"

# (about Planning)

by Barb McMullen

Recent comments by Mark Tewdwr-Jones of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) entitled "Beyond a joke: facing up to some home truths about planning", concerning the image of town planning in the UK, ring remarkably true for Canada, or at least Eastern Ontario. This article, on the RTPI's web page, was brought to my attention by Don Maciver, who "found it quite coincidental that the profession could be facing the same malaise on both sides of the BIG water." I couldn't resist sharing Tewdwr-Jones' comments as follows, in part, particularly since they bear a relationship to certain goals in the OPPI's Strategic Plan:

"It is time we examined the image and representation of the planning profession and basically faced up to some home truths about how we are portrayed in society and in the media.

Town planning is continuing to suffer from a severe, albeit outdated, image problem identified by planners and the public, that needs to be tackled positively. The public's perception of planning in the 1990s as nothing more than development control is being bolstered by the profession's ability to embark on a broader intellectual discourse about planning's strategic contribution and to be seen to be reviewing planning's position in UK politics and governance.

In my view, it is time for the profession to reassert itself as a central facilitating component of socio-economic restructuring, and for public sector planners to be less apathetic towards their tasks....

The phrase town planning unfortunately possesses negative connotations in the eyes of the public and the media. The media has not helped matters. Recent television and media reporting of planning has tended to concentrate on the bureaucratic and administrative machinery of planning, particularly with regard to recent cases of alleged malpractice and corruption . . . .

This portrayal has done little to boost the confidence of the planning practitioners, who in their day-to-day work also suffer the unenviable role of mediating in public displeasure, unrest and argumentation. It is little wonder that the practitioners themselves are also starting to abandon using the phrase town planners in their job titles - preferring to call themselves simply planners, development consultants, environmentalists or local authority officers. As a planning student recently remarked to me, "Yeah, being a town planner is a bit embarrassing with your mates. You just try to call yourself something else."

Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum's Chief Executive Craig McLaren has also referred to the inevitable moment at a party when someone asks 'the dreaded question', "So what do you do for a living?", and the response, "Oh, I'm a town planner", which is generally a cue for comic abuse and/or anger from the other people present." But as planning professionals, we have been largely intent on accepting the abuse, or else sweeping it under the carpet. We have not faced up to the poor images, we have been reluctant to admit our mistakes too readily, and we may not have taken sufficient account of the community aspect . . . .

One would normally have expected the professional Institute to take up the challenge of planning's public image and reassertion . . . But the RTPI has shown little interest in championing a public campaign . . . When television and newspapers report on planning-related subjects, how often do we see someone being interviewed who's representing the profession? Exactly, it's not a happy scene. This is in stark contrast to the RIBA, the Law Society, the BMA and other professional organisations which manage to put forward a representative to champion their cause . . . .

This role is extremely important; it not only affects how the public and media view us, it also impacts on future recruitment patterns to planning schools, on whether planning is viewed as an exciting discipline that people wish to spend the rest of their careers involved with. It impacts on all of us.

The public criticism and ridicule, the roundabout jokes and the political bashing planning received in the 1980s have led the planning profession to withdraw into a non-controversial, balancing-act based activity, devoid of visionary zeal, as a way of coping with adverse public criticism of previous mistakes that we, as planners, have been responsible for . . .

#### Some "Home Truths" (continued)

Part of the problem rests with planners' own inability to reassert their profession . . . "Planners must be prepared to stand up and trumpet their achievements".

If we are re-considering planning as we enter a new millennium, then maybe it's time we confronted some harsh realities of how we are sometimes portrayed. Only then can we effectively debate the future, and co-ordinate change with confidence."

Dr. Mark Tewdwr-Jones is Senior Lecturer in Planning at the Department of Land Economy, University of Aberdeen. Dated: 30 July 1999. RTPI website address: www.rtpi.co.uk

The coincidence (or lack thereof) and timing of Tewdwr-Jones comments could not be more fortuitous, considering certain goals and priorities in the OPPI's draft Strategic Plan. The latter was presented at the OPPI's AGM at Collingwood in September. Among other elements, OPPI's Strategic Plan addresses the problem of the public image of planners, and contains specific goals to: broaden awareness of planning and the role of planners in Ontario; maintain a strong government relations program; and, work closely with the media, building an understanding of planning issues and accomplishments and enhancing the public image of planners. The Strategic Plan also contains a public awareness campaign action plan based on, at its core, the message that good planning as practiced by professional planners adds value to our communities.

Let's get behind it!



# Renaissance Visioning

(in Cornwall)

by Ken Bedford, Senior Planner, Planning Department, City of Cornwall

A small group of concerned merchants in the east end of Cornwall, Ontario met in the Spring of 1998 to discuss the future socio-economic viability of their unique community, commonly referred to as "Le Village". Over the past several decades, this B.I.A. and surrounding Francophone residential neighbourhood (comprising a population of some 2700 in about 1300 dwelling units, spread over a 12 block area) has seen a constant decline in youth out-migration, an increase in failed businesses, an increased crime rate, a growth in absentee landlords, decaying commercial facades, poor housing conditions, and a loss of unique cultural identity. Even the local parish representatives expressed a deep regret concerning the state of low community identity, and the increasing perception in the municipality as a whole, that Le Village was Cornwall's most depressed area.

Whether it was perception or reality, this small group of merchants (many of whom are 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> generation business people/residents) were determined to "turn things around". With the initial assistance of staff in the City of Cornwall's Planning Department and the Economic Development Department, and the dynamic energy of a former alderman, Mr. Chuck Charlebois (who later became the Renaissance Project coordinator), the formation of a community group was born, called the Renaissance Project Association.

By the early summer of 1998, the Renaissance group had retained the

planning services of Delcan Corporation in Ottawa, and under the direction of Patrick Déoux and Ron Clarke, a comprehensive visioning exercise was undertaken. The Renaissance Visioning Initiative was carried out over several months ending in December, 1998, with a report called "Our Renaissance! Our Vision". This grassroots process involved hundreds of participants including prominent business people, representatives of NGO's, local residents, and parish officials to name a few. The primary objective was to identify local common goals and objectives to revitalize and grow the study area as seen through the eyes of the people living in the Renaissance (Le Village) neighbourhood.

Initial results of the Visioning exercise conducted in 1998 can be seen in the enthusiasm and growth of the Renaissance Group of today. A sense of renewed interest, and a number of positive steps forward are evident, such as reinvestment and stability in the community, and the formation of a very active Residents' Association.

The Renaissance Group & Delcan Corporation have been recognized for their visioning report efforts with a winning entry in the 1999 OPPI District level Excellence in Planning Award competition.

This is an example of how local businessmen and residents can come together to address basic community issues head-on without the financial support of various levels of government.

Given the determination of this community, we will continue to hear about the successful implementation of recommendations from the "Renaissance Visioning Report, December 1998". It is definitely "A Vision for the New Millennium".

#### **Editor's Note:**

Delcan Corporation was the recipient of a Professional Merit Award for the Cornwall Visioning Report, in the Communications Category, at the OPPI Conference in September 1999. As described in the Conference agenda, "The report was identified as unusual due to its grass roots origin. Cornwall planners were involved but did not initiate the project. In the words of the jury "it shows the opportunity for planning to operate outside the bounds of official plans and zoning by-laws and successfully combines planning with community development."

More to come about two other Eastern District Professional Merit Awards in the Winter issue of Vibrations.



## New Members: OPPI (Eastern Ontario District)

#### **FULL MEMBERS**

Christopher Brouwer, Planner, City of Cumberland Leeann McGovern, Intermediate Planner, Fotenn Consultants

Tracy Zander, Planning Administrator, Carleton Place

### **PROVISIONAL MEMBERS**

Miroslawa Januskiewicz, Commissioner of Strategic & Long Range Planning, City of Kingston

#### PEOPLE AND PLACES

Don Herweyer, formerly a planner with the City of Nepean, moved to the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton Development Approval Division at the end of August, 1999.

Robert Walters, formerly a planner with the City of Thunder Bay, began a position with the Property Development and Planning Division at the National Capital Commission in March, 1999.

Amr Elleithy and Peter Hecht are new members on the Eastern District Membership Committee.

David Becker of Fotenn Consultants will become the new Vibrations Editor effective with the Winter Issue. Welcome aboard, David.

# Upcoming Events Impound Dates

#### **Urban Forum Series**

## Housing Trends in the Capital: New and Improved Formulas

October 13, 1999, 7 p.m.

Champlain Room, Ottawa-Carleton Centre

Panel presentation and discussion on housing trends in the National Capital Region and beyond (part of Architecture Week '99).

Panelists include Alain Miguèlez of CMHC; Peter Gabor of Gabor & Popper architects; and Steve Pomeroy of Focus Consulting.

#### The Artist's Perspective on the City

November 24, 1999, 7 p.m.

Champlain Room, Ottawa-Carleton Centre

Panel presentation and discussion on how artists from various disciplines view the city, how they draw inspiration from it, and what they contribute to its livability.

#### Shaping Canada's Future by Design

February 9, 2000, 7 p.m.

Champlain Room, Ottawa-Carleton Centre

A discussion of how community qualities can be enhanced through the integration of urban design in all aspects of land development decision-making. (Also in Toronto February 10)

## Managing Diversity: Planning for Multicultural Cities

March 21, 2000, 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Haydon Hall, Ottawa-Carleton Centre

A workshop, in partnership with The Metropolis Project, examining international migration and urban planning, and exploring responses toward a desirable multicultural urban environment. (Also in Toronto March 92)

#### **Eastern District Events**

#### Waterloo Alumni and Eastern District OPPI Luncheon

October 22, 1999, 12:15 p.m.

Courtyard Restaurant, 21 George Street

Louise Comeau of FCM re: Canada's Response to Global Climate Change

#### Octoberfest Dinner and Social

October 28, 1999, The Lindenhof Restaurant 965 Richmond Road, Ottawa

Cocktails: 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. (cash bar) German Dinner (no cost to members)

#### Reservations required

Contact Leeann McGovern @ 730-5709 to confirm attendance.

Annual General Meeting & presentation of Membership certificates to new Full Members

